



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

April 3, 2015

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Martin Ackley, Director, Office of Public and Governmental Affairs

SUBJECT: State and Federal Legislative Update

**MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

On March 25, **HB 4331 (Jacobsen)** was referred to second reading before the full House of Representatives as a substitute H-1. The bill increases cap on emergency loans.

On March 25, **HB 4332 (Garcia)** was referred to second reading before the full House of Representatives. The bill modifies the surplus funds act.

On March 24, **HB 4369 (Potvin)** was referred to the House Committee on Appropriations. The bill provides for counting in membership of certain pupils absent on pupil count day.

On March 25, **HB 4371 (Greig)** was referred to the House Committee on Education. The bill prohibits religious holiday absences from counting against a student's attendance record for purposes of awards.

On March 25, **HB 4373 (Geiss)** was referred to the House Committee on Education. The bill requires public school academies to post educational materials on website and submit to department.

On March 25, **HB 4388 (McCready)** was referred to the House Committee on Education. The bill expands school district's permissible use of sinking funds to include school security improvements and technology.

On March 25, **HB 4390 (Tedder)** was referred to House Committee on Education. The bill allows ½ credit of personal economics or financial literacy to satisfy economics credit required for Michigan Merit Curriculum.

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On March 26, **HB 4394 (Glenn)** was referred to the House Committee on Education. The bill Provides local option to hire noncertified teachers.

On March 26, **HB 4395 EDUCATION (Glenn)** was referred to the House Committee on Education. The bill provides local option to hire noncertified teachers.

### **MICHIGAN SENATE**

On March 26, **SB 53 (Jones)** was ordered enrolled by the Senate and transmitted to the Governor. The bill provides exemption for retired federal law enforcement officers to carry a concealed weapon in weapon-free zones. These zones include school or school property, public or private child care or day care centers. The bill awaits further action.

On March 25, **SB 173 (Horn)** passed in the Senate as a substitute S-2. The bill revises payment of work project allocation for costs associated with certain dissolved school districts and calculation of state portion of foundation allowance for certain receiving districts. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Appropriations and awaits further action.

### **BUDGET UPDATE**

On March 25, **SB 120 (Hansen)** was reported from the Appropriations K-12 School Aid & Education Subcommittee as a substitute S-1. The subcommittee removed funds for teacher evaluations. Among boilerplate changes, the Senate would require creation of a best practices clearinghouse for K-3 reading and a new teacher certification test. The bill awaits further action.

On March 25, **SB 130 (Hansen)** was reported from the Appropriations K-12 School Aid & Education Subcommittee as a substitute S-1. The bill provides increases ranging between \$50 and \$100 per student, with more going to lesser-funded districts. Changes the pupil count weighting to 85 percent from current fall and 15 percent from prior spring. The budget includes \$6.4 million to ensure no district sees funding decline after the changes to at-risk; best practices; and pupil performance grants. The budget provides \$13.97 billion (\$41.7 million General Fund) for school funding. The bill awaits further action.

On March 24, **HB 4089 (Pscholka)** was reported from the House Appropriations School Aid Subcommittee as a substitute H-1. The bill increases funds toward the foundation allowance by \$296.4 million, provides foundation grant increases of between \$137 and \$274 per student using the formula that provides twice the increase to the lower-spending districts, plus an extra \$25 per student to those districts below the basic grant. Another \$14 million, all School Aid Fund, covers the \$5 per pupil added in 2013-14 and ensures all districts see at least \$25 per pupil for the coming fiscal year after the Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System cost offset cuts and best practices, district performance and dissolved districts grants elimination. The bill awaits further action.

On March 25, **HB 4097 (Pscholka)** was reported from the Appropriations Education Subcommittee as a substitute H-1. The bill provides appropriations to the Department of Education for fiscal year 2015-16. Provides \$303.55 million for the department. In General Fund, the budget provided \$75.29 million. The bill awaits further action.

## **FEDERAL UPDATE**

### ESEA Flexibility

Last week, the U.S Department of Education (ED) announced Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) flexibility renewal for five states: Kentucky, Minnesota, New Mexico, North Carolina, and Virginia. Until a new ESEA is in place, No Child Left Behind remains the law of the land. That means states need a new round of waivers that provide flexibility from top-down, prescriptive provisions of the law so that they can continue implementing innovative changes. They were invited to participate in an expedited review process -- developed with input from states -- which included submitting their renewal requests in January and meeting with agency officials in person. They will have four more years of flexibility, through the 2018-19 school year.

All other states were required to submit their renewal requests by March 31. The Michigan Department of Education submitted its waiver renewal request on March 31. USED will make decisions on these submissions through late spring and summer. In the event that Congress reauthorizes ESEA, the agency will work with states to help them transition to the new law.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding these or other legislative issues, please contact me at (517) 241-4395.